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Caribbean Conjunctures

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Caribbean Conjunctures

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Caribbean Conjunctures: The Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) Journal aims to promote the field of Caribbean Studies from multilingual, multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and multicultural perspectives. It seeks to disseminate the works of scholars and practitioners that reflect the Greater Caribbean region – including Central America and the Caribbean coasts of Mexico and South America and extending to Northeast Brazil. The peer-reviewed, academic journal seeks to collaborate and support research and analysis which document the importance of the Caribbean's connection to the African continent and to the Caribbean people throughout the Diaspora, especially in United States, Canada, and Europe.

The journal publishes research articles, book reviews, reviews of visual art exhibitions, and scholarly commentaries – after a double-blind peer review for research articles and a single-blind process in the case of the rest. Submissions are welcome from the Humanities, the Social Sciences, and the Visual & Performing Arts in five languages – Papiamentu, Dutch, French, Spanish, and English (both US and UK English). The CSA journal is leveraging the longstanding trajectory of the association as a premier annual convergence point for the global Caribbean Studies community of scholars. It is tapping into the association's significant body of knowledge producers and intends to be a permanent repository of scholarship.

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INTRODUCTION

An Academic Journal for CSA at 48: A Scholarly Exchange Space for the Global Community of Caribbeanists

Opal Palmer ADISA AND Raymond LAUREANO-ORTIZ

CARIBBEAN CONJUNCTURES: THE CARIBBEAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION (CSA) JOURNAL is marking the association's 48th anniversary in 2022. Since its founding, CSA has established a strong tradition of annual academic conferences that showcase Caribbean scholarship and diverse membership. This long-anticipated, peer-reviewed academic journal has been launched to carry on that tradition and expand the association in terms of membership, visibility, and reach.

The journal's mission is to promote the field of Caribbean Studies from multilingual, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and multicultural perspectives. It seeks to disseminate the works of scholars and practitioners that reflect the Greater Caribbean region – including Central America and the Caribbean coasts of Mexico and South America and extending to Northeast Brazil. In addition, the publication is intending to collaborate and support research and analysis which document the importance of the Caribbean's connection to the African continent and the links to the Caribbean people throughout the Diaspora, especially in United States, Canada, and Europe.

The journal aspires to appeal to the interest of the global scholarly communities in understanding the breadth of the dynamics political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of the Greater Caribbean region by providing research articles, books reviews, arts reviews, scholarly commentaries, and visual arts that present original, relevant, broad-based insightful analysis and perspectives. Research articles have been double-blind peer reviewed, and the other contributions went through a single-blind peer review.

In this inaugural issue of the journal, which revolves primarily around the grand theme of the Caribbean and COVID-19, selected texts and images strive to contextualize and enhance the understanding of COVID-19-related challenges and responses, as well as other impactful historical and contemporary affairs in the region. Caribbean realities are interrogated through the lens of the Social Sciences, the Humanities, and/or the Visual Arts in nine research articles, thirteen book reviews, six arts reviews, five scholarly commentaries, and multiple images of work by Caribbean artists. The essays are presented in one of five languages – Papiamentu, Dutch, French, Spanish, or English. In addition to this editorial note, other two are included to collectively present three important knowledge exchange channels within CSA: the journal, a book award process, and a mentoring program.

Caribbean Conjunctures was pursued as a flagship initiative under the presidency of tavis jules (2019–2021 CSA President). The founding team led by jules (USA / Guyana) was constituted in the summer of 2020 by key collaborators Meagan Sylvester (Trinidad & Tobago) and Chenzira Davis-Kahina (Virgin Islands) and the rest of the former CSA Journal Taskforce: Andrea Baldwin (USA / Barbados), Keisha Wiel (USA / Aruba), Natasha Mortley (Jamaica), Antonio Carmona (Sint Maarten / Puerto Rico), and Raymond Laureano-Ortiz (Puerto Rico). By December 2020, the Editor in Chief (Jamaica) and the Managing Editor (Puerto Rico) roles (exercised by the writers of this note) were recruited to lead what gradually has become a dynamic, multilingual, global, and multidisciplinary team of about thirty (30) editors, thirty-five (35) advisers, and over one hundred (100) peer reviewers. This Caribbeanist community of scholars from the various subdisciplines within the humanities and social sciences is geographically distributed across five continents. Other strategic partners include The UWI Press as publisher and the Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center (VICCC) at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) as pioneering and generous sponsor of the CSA Journal Fund and this inaugural issue.

The creation and the sustainment of this space for scholarly exchange have been an enriching and intense journey. The contributions of all those involved in facilitating the journal's daily operations are most appreciated. These operations were enabled through the management of four strategic areas: the technology infrastructure, the review processes, the expert human resources, and the communications among the participating

parties. The essays submitted by all authors (including those not selected for immediate publication) are a valued core element of this initiative as they sparked the scholarly exchange being pursued for knowledge creation. As much constructive feedback as possible was sought for all authors to assist in strengthening the contents and the eventual, effective dissemination of research and scholarship. Lessons learned from this first editorial round will inform future journal issues in continuing the path towards the more agile, inclusive, and accessible space envisioned by the general CSA membership and, especially, the journal founders.

Caribbean Conjunctions joins other editorial efforts aimed at the Caribbeanist scholarly domain: e.g., *Caribbean Studies* and *Sargasso* (Puerto Rico), the *New West Indian Guide* (Netherlands), *Études caribéennes* (Martinique), *Revista Mexicana del Caribe* and *CariCen* (Mexico), *Small Axe* and *Anthurium* (USA), *Anales del Caribe* (Cuba), and *Karib* (Sweden). In this shared editorial space, *Conjunctions* will be striving to significantly expand the conversations and exchanges by leveraging the longstanding trajectory of the CSA as a premier annual convergence point and think tank for the global Caribbean Studies community of scholars. To push the breadth and the reach of the efforts to concretize Caribbean intellectual scholarship, *Caribbean Conjunctions* will therefore utilize the association's significant potential as a knowledge producer and as a permanent scholarly repository.

For the latest call for papers and author guidelines, see the following links:
<https://www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org/csa-journal>
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S NOTE

Walking in Our Shoes

Opal Palmer ADISA

PRIDE AND HUMILITY MIGHT NOT OCCUPY THE SAME space, yet presenting this, the inaugural issue of *Caribbean Conjunctures*, the journal of the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), twins these emotions in me, and they happily stand side-by-side. *Caribbean Conjunctures* introduces and assembles in one space the diverse breadth of scholarship by Caribbean intellectuals who have been meeting to share and exchange knowledge, learn from each other, and affirm their work for the betterment of their respective countries. It is therefore fitting that, at this juncture in history when the COVID 19 pandemic challenged every aspect of the delicate economic Caribbean society, the journal should be born a testament to our resilience, resourcefulness, and creativity.

Aptly, the theme of this inaugural issue focuses on the pandemic and our responses, presenting us with various vantage points from which to evaluate its impact on our societies. But the journal rightly opens with “Reflecting on the Future of the Caribbean Studies Association with Lenses from the Past (by five CSA Past Presidents).” This serves as historical memory and, particularly for our newer members and emerging scholars, this reflection by five past presidents contextualizes the journey of this organization. Reading this piece took me back to the first CSA conference that I attended as a graduate student in Curaçao in 1982.

The past presidents’ reminiscence opens the door for the nine scholarly essays that take us to Grenada to observe how the rural workers are dealing with food during the pandemic; then, we move to Haiti to explore the vulnerability of Haitian women under the pandemic. From there, we skip to the Eastern Caribbean to examine migration, then onto St Lucia to take note of how Rastafarians there are responding to the pandemic. We move to

Guyana's prison system, then pause to analyze climate change, confinement in Martinique, and how COVID pivoted musical festivals in the Caribbean. We end with a historical perspective of vaccination in Curaçao. This new body of scholarship captures the immediacy of the times, the various coping strategies being implemented, and how scholars are conducting research in these times.

Caribbean Conjunctures embraces intersectional discourses: scholarship, art, and production. Next in the journal are 10 book reviews and, continuing the theme, most offer some insight into the pandemic. The first English book review links the Caribbean with Latin America: *Going Viral: COVID-19 and the Accelerated Transformation of Jobs in Latin America and the Caribbean*. From the Spanish Caribbean, we have *The World after Coronavirus* and, from the Dutch region, in Papiamentu, we have *The Mysterious Virus*. The final section of the journal invites us to view some exhibitions to discern how visual artists are conducting scholarship and helping us to process the complexities of Caribbean reality.

Caribbean Conjunctures reflects the whole region, bringing scholars in all disciplines and artists to engage each other while promoting the multilingual, something we endeavor to do in every issue to continue to forge bridges for Caribbean unification. *Caribbean Conjunctures* promises to present new scholarship that has been refereed and has met all the rigorous standards of excellence and truth-telling. It will always strive to be a place that welcomes and houses multiple perspectives and strong and emerging voices. It offers itself as that place where our Caribbean scholars can find each other and *ground* with one another as Walter Rodney spoke about, sharing the knowledge so we can educate and support one another in our development to enrich the socio-economic lives of our people.

Respect,
Professor Opal Palmer ADISA
Editor-in-Chief, July 2022



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